THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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Jack Dorsey, Twitter CEO

TWITTER WEBSITE DISTORTS INDIA MAP

Amid a stand-off with the Union Government over compliance with the new IT rules, social media platform Twitter is displaying a wrong map of India that shows Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh as a separate country. The glaring distortion, which appears on the career section of the Twitter website under the header 'Tweep Life', has triggered a heavy backlash from netizens who are demanding strict action against the platform. P9

SSLC exams on July 19, 22: Suresh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE State is yet to unlock completely and lift restrictions in many districts, but the Education Department on Monday released the timetable for the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) examinations, which will be held on two days -- July 19 and July 22.

Primary and Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar said the exams will be conducted in a unique way this year where all the questions of all the papers will be multiple choice. "Students have to mark the answers on the Optical Mark Reading sheet given at the examination centre," he said.

"The exams will be restricted to two days this time. The papers for the core subjects, like mathematics, social science and science, will be held on July 19 and for language subjects, it will be on July 22. On both days, the exams will be held between 10.30 am and 1.30 pm," he added.

The board has uploaded a sample question paper on its website. It will be sent to schools to inform students about the pattern and how to solve the paper.

While many questioned the logic behind holding the exams when the State is still recovering from the Covid second wave, he clarified that SSLC exams are necessary for students to select their stream.

"Last year, 8.46 lakh students appeared for the exams, and this year, it will be 8,76,581. The education department will allocate 73,066 exam halls this year which is far more than what it was last year," he added.

The Board will follow all the standard operating procedures issued by the Health Department and they have been conveyed to deputy commissioners, chief executive officers, senior police officers and treasury officers of all districts.

CONTINUED ON: P2

PUC II results in July 2nd week

The results of PUC II students will be announced in the second week of July. Suresh Kumar said the decision about promoting repeaters will be taken in two days.

Rural stint must for new doctors

The government has made rural service mandatory for 2,053 MBBS graduates, who have been hired in the health and medical education departments. P7

We were not aware of education minister's decision to announce the dates for SSLC exams... I do not know if the directions have been given by health department officials.

Dr K Sudhakar, Health Minister

Emergency cash

An additional ₹1.5L cr allocated for Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme; ₹7,500 cr for micro finance institutions

Loan guarantee

₹1.1 lakh crore loan guarantee scheme for Covid-hit sectors, of which ₹50,000 cr is for the health sector to scale up medical infra

Public health

A total of ₹23,000 cr to be spent under new scheme for public health in FY22, of which the Centre will spend ₹15,000 crore

Food grains

Centre to spend ₹93,869 cr during May-Nov 2021 for free food grains under PMGKY, bringing total cost to ₹2,27,841 crore

Insurance

₹88K cr to be spent during FY22-26 to boost export insurance cover, plus ₹33K cr for projects through natl export insurance account

TARGETED SUPPORT

ANOTHER STIMULUS SHOT TO LIFT ECONOMY

FM announces fresh credit for Covid-hit small biz, tourism, healthcare sectors

ANURADHA SHUKLA @ New Delhi

THE finance ministry on Monday announced a slew of measures to help the Covid-battered economy, including fresh credit for MSMEs, and targeted support to the healthcare and tourism sectors. The package includes ₹1.10 lakh crore of credit guarantee scheme, of which ₹50,000 crore will be for the healthcare sector, with a three-year single loan of up to ₹100 crore carrying an interest of 7.95%. Loans to other sectors such as tourism and hospitality would come at 8.25% per annum interest rate.

Special support was given to the hospitality sector in the form of retail loan worth ₹10 lakh to travel agencies and ₹1 lakh loan for registered tourist guides.

"They can use the loans to pay old loan or to buy a vehicle or start a new business," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, while announcing the relief package for the tourism sector. A ₹7,500 crore credit guarantee scheme was extended to banks for existing NBFC-MFIs or MFIs for lending up to ₹1.25 lakh to about 25 lakh small borrowers.

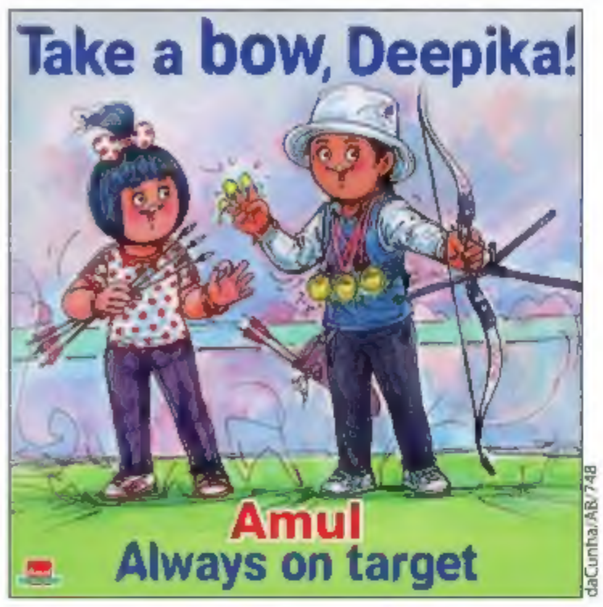
Experts claimed that while the intent is good, this will hardly help the sector which has about six crore borrowers.

Apart from that, the government increased the cap for availing guarantee under the existing Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme from ₹3 lakh crore to ₹4.5 lakh crore and extended the timeline of many existing schemes under Atmanirbhar package for one more year, like Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana and Production-linked scheme.

The Centre has also extended the timeline for previously-announced free foodgrains scheme for the poor from May to November 2021. The outgo from this scheme in FY22 is estimated at ₹93,869 crore. This, along with an additional allocation of ₹14,775 crore towards fertiliser subsidy, takes the size of the relief package to ₹6.29 lakh crore.

However, as most of the announcements were part of the credit guarantee scheme, the fiscal impact for the government will be limited, said Siddharth Sanyal, chief economist and head, Research, Bandhan Bank.

Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA, estimates the step-up in the fiscal outgo within FY22 based on fresh announcements at ₹60,000 crore. That said, Monday's package packed more wallop due to the attention on health, whose FY22 budget allocation was deemed grossly inadequate. An additional ₹23,220 crore was directed towards health expenditure, with special emphasis on paedetric care. P12



India was in dark on Delta variant: Expert

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

THE Delta variant of B 1.617.2 lineage has created havoc and is spreading fast even in the most-vaccinated countries. India, too, is still reeling under the effects of the deadly second wave due to this variant.

Dr Eric Feigl-Ding, a US-based epidemiologist and Senior Fellow at the Federation of American Scientists, told *The New Indian Express* that India, where the Delta variant first emerged, was in the dark for a long time and with the evidence of the variant escaping vaccine efficacy, the country needs to now seriously ramp up genome sequencing and testing to mitigate the virus.

"If a variant rises from your country, to stop it from spreading to the world and harming your own citizens, you need to invest in resources. Many variants may emerge and if there is a delay in identifying them, there might be many lockdowns in the future, not just in India, but across the world," Dr Feigl-Ding said.

FULL INTERVIEW: P4

NATIONWIDE	JUNE 27	JUNE 28
Fresh cases	50,040	46,148
Recoveries	57,944	58,578
Deaths	1,258	979

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

June 27: 64.25 lakh doses

June 28: 48,01,465 doses

TOTAL DOSES: 32,85,54,011

KARNATAKA	JUNE 27	JUNE 28
Fresh cases	3,604	2,576
Recoveries	7,699	5,933
Deaths	89	93

Army thwarts possible drone attack

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

LESS than 24 hours after the first-ever drone bombing on an Indian Air Force base, troops thwarted two possible drone attacks on the Ratnuchak-Kaluchak military station in Jammu.

Defence spokesman Lt Col Devender Anand said on midnight of June 27-28, troops spotted two separate drone activities. "One was detected at 11.45 pm and second at 2.40 am. Quick reaction teams engaged them with firing, upon which they flew away," he said.

An Army officer said alert jawans foiled probable drone attacks. Asked whether there was any clarity as to where the drones had come from and where they went, he said, "It was night time, so it was difficult to determine it." P9

Fliers hit as Covishield not on EU's list

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA), the regulatory body for the European Union (EU), has excluded Serum Institute of India (SII)-manufactured AstraZeneca vaccine Covishield from the bloc's 'Green Pass', putting fliers from India under stress.

The Green Pass, which will come into effect on July 1, will enable people to travel to EU member states for business and tourism if they have taken either of the four approved jabs. They are Vaxzevria (Oxford-AstraZeneca's jab manufactured in Europe), Comirnaty (Pfizer-BioNTech), Spikevax (Moderna) and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson).

SII missed the bus because it had not applied for its emergency use with the regulatory agency. But there is no difference between AstraZeneca's between Vaxzevria and Covishield.

"In my view, this decision is clearly discriminatory and without any plausible explanation on why the same vaccine produced in two different countries is being treated differently," said Chandrakant Lahariya, health systems and vaccine expert. India has taken up the matter with Brussels and also the French government. P9

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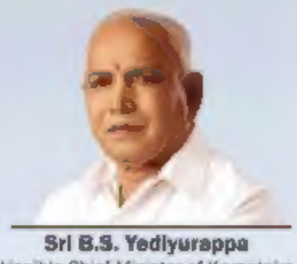
Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Government of India



Sri B.S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

KISAN RAIL

FOR SEAMLESS CONNECTIVITY AMONG FARMS, MARKETS & CONSUMERS

Government of Karnataka thanks Hon'ble Prime Minister for this farmer -friendly initiative.

FLAGGING OFF KISAN RAIL CARRYING 250 TONNES OF MANGOES FROM KOLAR REGION TO DELHI

by

SRI B.S. YEDIYURAPPA

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

Date: 29.06.2021 | Time: 13.00 Hrs. | Venue: Yelahanka Railway Station

Hon'ble Union Finance Minister had announced in the 2020-21 Budget to start "Kisan Rail" to facilitate seamless transport of perishable agricultural produce from the place of produce to different parts of the country.

Ministry of Railways introduced, "Kisan Rail" in August 2020 as an initiative to increase farmers' income by using one of India's best resources - its extensive rail network-to transport perishable agri-products such as milk, meat, fish, fruits and vegetables etc, at subsidized rates and opening up opportunities for them to reach untapped markets across the country.

Salient features of Kisan Rail

1. 50 percent subsidy is given in freight (being borne by Ministry of Food Processing Industries under "Operation Greens-TOP to Total" scheme) for transportation of fruits and vegetables.
2. Enables farmers to gain access to distant, bigger and more lucrative markets.
3. Speedy movement ensures minimum damage during transit.
4. The facility enables transporting of multiple commodities, by multiple consignor & consignee, multiple stoppages in time-table trains.

South Western Railway (SWR) has run five Kisan Rail Services since 19th June, 2021, transporting around 1,250 Metric Tonnes (250 tonnes per train) of Green Mangoes. SWR intends to run at least one Mango Kisan Rail every 2-3 days depending on the demand.

Kisan Rail - Exploring New Markets for Increased, Sustainable Profits

MASK UP STAY SAFE STAY HEALTHY

karnataka information
Department of Information and Public Relations